

# BASEBALL MEN

Many Changes  
Likely to Happen in the  
Coming Season.

## LOOKING AHEAD.

ington. Baltimore would make a fight for it, but I think that the majority of the club owners would vote for the Capital City in opposition to the home of the old Orioles. Of course that rejuvenation of the opposition party, which sputtered and gasped last winter, might change the plans of the club owners. The plans would be abandoned entirely providing the players' organization looked with favor upon the opposition.

The case of Rusie, the phenomenal pitcher, is a peculiar one. Had he remained in the New York club this year he would, in all probability, have made a splendid record. He and Ewing were old friends, understood each other thoroughly, and the chances are that his work in the box would have kept Freedman's tail enders in a better position. Then the troubles of the big fellow with his wife broke out, and he deserted the team without notice and now says that he has abandoned the green diamond field for good. Rusie in condition was probably the greatest pitcher that ever lived. He had all of the skill and control of the Keefes, Clarksons, Mercers and Griffiths, with a great deal more speed. Mrs. Rusie says that Amos went to the bad as a husband on account of his associations on the diamond. A ball player, like an actor, is exposed to many temptations. He is the subject of hero worship, and if his head it not well balanced his collapse is sure. There are always people about ball grounds who pretend to think it an honor to have a well known player walk with them into a drinking saloon and lean against the bar. They are the same people who will be the first to criticize a player on the field when he does indifferent work, saying that he is a drunken loafer because they have seen him hanging around saloons. So the average player will save his reputation and salary by giving the hero worshippers a wide berth when their day's work on the field is over. The diamond loses a mighty pitcher in Rusie, no matter how much contentment Mrs. Rusie may gain by his desertion of his chosen profession.

There is a man in the Brooklyn team this year whose work entitles him to special mention. Arthur Jones has during the year become one of the crack outfielders of the profession. Steady, painstaking and earnest, he has won his spurs fairly. His hitting has been remarkable all the year, as can be seen when he lends such men as Keeler and Kelley. He has improved in his base running, and his fielding has been first class. Jones was a problem to Hanlon. When Griffin left the team, there was a wall. Sheekard and Anderson were both tried, but neither seemed to exactly fill the bill. Then Jones got a chance, and, clever fellow and great ball player that he is, he did not allow the opportunity to slip. He is today one of the most popular players among the champions.

G. E. STACKHOUSE.

### A NEW WEIGHT THROWER.

#### Matt McGrath of Tipperary Looks of Championship Caliber.

To many of the giant Irishmen who come to America the knack of hurling heavy weights a great distance comes as naturally as does their brogue.

John Flanagan of Dublin and the New York Athletic club holds the honors at present, but a likely rival has



turned up in Matt McGrath, a Tipperary lad. Matt, who is just able to vote, stands 6 feet 3 inches high and weighs 204 pounds. He has but recently taken up hammer throwing, and yet last week he placed 164 feet 9 inches to his credit. This is within 3 feet of the world's record. Flanagan, who has seen him throw, says McGrath is a coming man.

As the baseball season progresses the wise men of the game begin to discuss the innovations and improvements likely to be introduced before another season comes around. Those same wise men are not necessarily the club owners, for the history of the game shows that when the magnates begin to talk troubles multiply and little actual work is done. The formation of the Players' Protective association was timely, and if the affairs of the organization are conducted strictly upon business and sportsmanlike lines its birth will be a blessing to the game. The magnates have already had it announced, though only semi-officially, that next year may



ARTHUR JONES.

[The crack center fielder of the Brooklyn team.] see the reduction of the salary limit and the number of players each club may reserve at the end of the season. This intimation of a reduction was put out merely as a "feeler" to see how the players would take it. The players of the country, knowing that the present salary limit change has never been observed, have read the stories and merely chuckled.

The present salary limit in the National league is supposed to be \$2,400 a year. Like the alleged limits in the minor leagues, there is not a club in any of the leagues which has lived up to the rule. The officials of the leagues know this, and, what is more, the players know it. The players also know that nearly every club owner in the National league is a rich man and that each made his money out of baseball. Will they under these conditions submit to a reduction of salaries? Not for a minute.

There is not a club in the big league today which is not paying from one to seven players in its team more than the supposed limit of \$2,400. In most cases the players' contracts may call for that amount, but there is always a supplementary contract drawn up, in which the player is guaranteed the difference. He may get a certain bonus for signing his contract, extra money for playing always in his best form, or a little bonus for abstaining from intoxicating liquors during the playing season. Does anybody imagine that "Mugsey" McGraw of the St. Louis club is playing baseball for a salary of \$2,400 a year? You could tack an extra \$1,000 on to the limit and not be far wrong. You can go right down the list, including Deleahanty of Philadelphia, Nichols of Boston, Clark of Pittsburgh, and you would not make a bad guess if you included the entire Brooklyn team. The limit is not exceeded much in New York and Boston, simply because Freedman is not built on the generosity plan, and Soden, Conant and Billings of Boston have lived in New England long enough to realize the full value of the mighty dollar. If the question of the reduction of players ever comes up seriously you can look to those two clubs, aided by Pittsburgh, to make the strongest fight for the reduction.

While on the subject of the great league it might be well to mention that the magnates are already considering plans for the practical reorganization of that body. That old Indianapolis agreement will expire next year and a new one will have to be made. The conditions in the metropolis are such that there are already rumors that either the New York or the Brooklyn team will be left out in the reorganization.

If Freedman would consent to dispose of his holdings the scheme already considered might be carried through. It is nothing less than the consolidation of the New York and Brooklyn clubs, the giving up of the franchise in the City of Churches, and the moving over from Gowanus to Manhattan of the splendid aggregation of baseball talent now controlled by Hanlon in Brooklyn. This would make room for another city on the eight club circuit, and I am of the opinion that our old friends, the Wagners, would bob up in time to secure the franchise for Wash-

## CORBETT AND M'COY.

Their Meeting Has Been Awaited With Great Interest.

WILL BE A SCIENTIFIC BOUT.

The Men Are the Cleverest Heavyweights in the World—This Fight Will Be the Last Before the Horton Law Expires.

"Kid" McCoy and James Corbett are training very faithfully for their contest at Madison Square Garden on the 30th of this month, as both realize what the result means to them. The loser will no longer be able to pose as a factor in the pugilistic arena. Corbett wants very much to meet Cham-



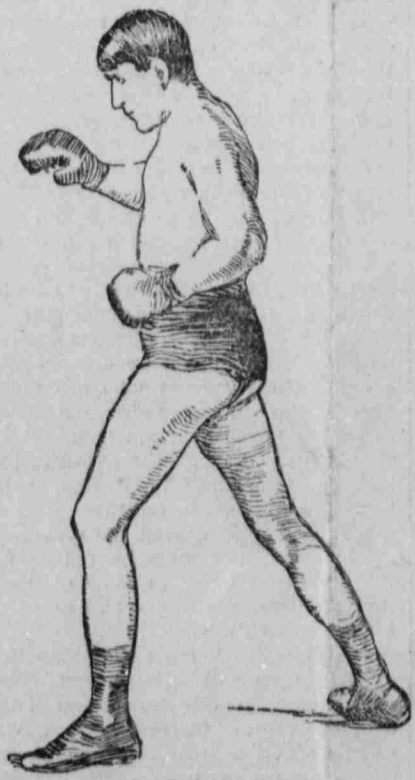
"KID" M'COY.

pion Jim Jeffries again and thinks that if he defeats McCoy he will get the opportunity.

It will be the last big fight before the expiration of the Horton law, and, if appearances are not deceptive, it will draw the biggest house of the pugilistic year. It would not be surprising if the gross receipts were to go above \$60,000. Sixty per cent of the gate is to go to the men, who are to divide, 70 per cent to the winner and 30 to the loser. It is probable, however, that they will split their share of the receipts even up between them.

Corbett does not get into condition quickly, and he has had none too long a time in which to prepare himself. He is taking his breathings at Bath Beach, which is on Gravesend bay, a little to the northwest of Coney Island. He has had the assistance of Gus Rubin and of Charley Goff as sparring partners. Goff is about McCoy's size and build, though he is far from being as quick or as clever as the Hoosier "Kid."

Not long since a man who knows McCoy pretty well said that he didn't think McCoy would ever fight again. "There's something wrong with him physically," he declared, "though I can't tell what it is." A great many people are of the opinion that McCoy is not an absolutely healthy man. As a matter of fact, when he first went to New York to fight one of his antagonists demanded that he be examined



JAMES J. CORBETT.

by a physician before he would consent to box with him. "I don't want to be responsible for killing any man," was the explanation he made for his demand. Well, McCoy passed the physical examination and nearly languished the life out of the fellow who thought he was almost a dead one.

It may be that in his case, at least, appearances are deceptive and that he is in much better health than his looks would indicate. At all events, he ought to know whether or not he is fit for a fight, and it is not likely that he would make a match with Corbett unless he was dead sure he was physically able to cope with him.

To Row for the Championship. George Towns, champion professional oarsman of England, and James Wray have been matched to row for the championship and a purse of £2,000. The race will be over the Thames course, 4½ miles, on Sept. 10.

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10:50 A. M. EAST LINE—Pullman Buffet Parlor Car to Harrisburg. Buffet Parlor Car to Harrisburg to Pittsburgh.

8:30 P. M. CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS, EXPRESS—Sleeping Car Washington to St. Louis and Sleeping and Dining Cars Harrisburg to Indianapolis, St. Louis, Nashville (via Cincinnati and Louisville) and Chicago.

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